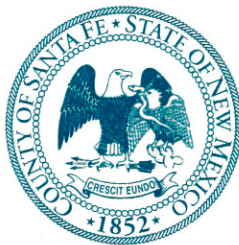


Daniel "Danny" Mayfield
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel M. Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

DATE: April 5, 2013

TO: Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

FROM: *CB*
Chris M. Barela, Constituent Service Liaison District 3

RE: Introduction of Resolution to support the use of water catchment systems throughout Santa Fe County and to Direct staff to "lead by example" by considering the use of water catchment systems at Santa Fe County facilities

Board of County Commission meeting April 9, 2013

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

Santa Fe County is an arid county and may be met with significant water challenges; there is a renewed interest in the concept of rainwater harvesting and cisterns and it is however incumbent that the County "lead by example" on developing strategies for water catchment systems at County facilities. Enclosed please find the resolution.

REQUEST ACTION:

Commissioner Robert A. Anaya and Commissioner Daniel "Danny" Mayfield respectfully request that the Board of Santa Fe County Commissioners support this item of introducing this resolution.

SANTA FE COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 2013-_____

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE USE OF WATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT SANTA FE COUNTY AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO “LEAD BY EXAMPLE” BY CONSIDERING THE USE OF WATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS AT SANTA FE COUNTY FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the term “rainwater harvesting” is used primarily to describe a landscaping strategy designed to capture rooftop precipitation for irrigation and the landscape, reducing the need for supplemental potable water; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE), the agency charged with administering the state’s water use and supply, promotes helpful strategies for water conservation by use of Roof-Reliant Landscaping which includes xeriscaping, efficient irrigation, use of low-water plants, dryland gardening, use of mulch, erosion control, use of retaining walls and straw bale swales, and the use of active and passive rainwater harvesting systems; and

WHEREAS, because New Mexico is an arid state with significant water challenges, there is a renewed interest statewide in the concept of rainwater harvesting and cisterns; and

WHEREAS, given the increased cycles of drought coupled with population growth, the County’s limited water resources, not only does it make sense to explore ways to get the most use of rainwater, but it is also wise to design and create landscapes that need little or no supplemental water in order to thrive; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico receives 12 inches of precipitation per year on average and the NMOSE continues to respond to the public’s need for new and progressive ways to conserve New Mexico’s limited water supply; and

WHEREAS, water is a precious resource in New Mexico, and it is in our best interest to be good stewards of this life-giving resource; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2010, this Board adopted by resolution the Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP), which provides that all new development consider installing rain barrels, cisterns or other water catchment basins to capture drainage depending on their structure size; and

WHEREAS, the SGMP further observes that Santa Fe County is already in the forefront of requiring sustainable landscaping and xeriscaping, limiting water use for landscaping, and requiring rainwater catchment; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2013, this Board adopted Resolution Number 2013-07, which provides that staff be directed to "Lead By Example" in implementing cost-effective waste reduction, recycling and clean energy strategies in county operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectively support water catchment strategies for the citizens and businesses of Santa Fe County, it is incumbent upon the County to "Lead by Example" at Santa Fe County facilities; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has already approved and begun to establish a water catchment system for the Edgewood Senior and Community Center in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Santa County Board of Commissioners adopts this resolution to support the use of water catchment systems throughout Santa Fe County and to direct staff to "Lead By Example" by considering the use of water catchment systems at Santa Fe County facilities whenever prudent and feasible.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED this 9th day of April, 2013.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

Kathy Holian, Chair

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


for: Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney